

Idaho Youth Prevention Survey

Region 7 Report

Lemhi, Custer, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bingham, and Bonneville Counties

2014

The Idaho Youth Prevention Survey assessed behaviors and attitudes about substance use and other high-risk behaviors. The survey was administered to students statewide in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12, and resulting data yielded information about student perceptions and activities.

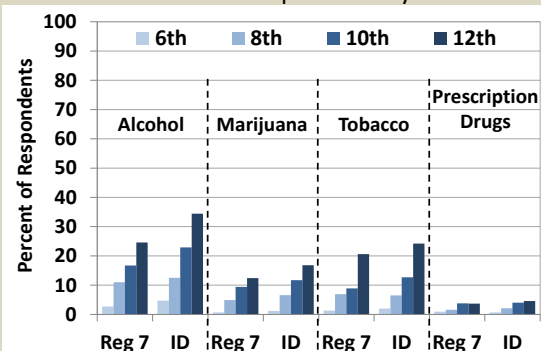
More than 12,000 students participated in the survey statewide; 3,043 attended schools in the eastern Idaho Region 7 counties of Bingham, Lemhi, Bonneville, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, and Madison.

Grade Level	Region 7		Idaho	
	#	%	#	%
6th	777	26	3140	25
8th	908	30	3663	29
10th	834	27	3168	25
12th	524	17	2679	21
Total	3043	100	12650	100

Focusing on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana use, and consumption of unprescribed prescription drugs, this report addresses students' recent use and perceptions of substance use. Data pertaining to suicidal attempts and ideation is also presented.

Regional and statewide results are provided based on the grade level of the students surveyed. Nearly all at-risk behaviors examined were more common among older students (Chart 1). Similarly, attitudes towards such behaviors became more casual, with less risk or wrong-doing ascribed by older students.

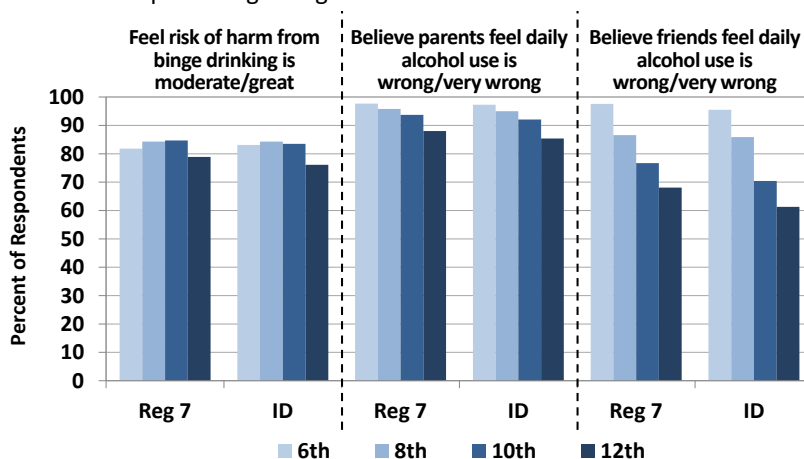
Chart 1. Substance use in prior 30 days



Previous studies indicate that, since 2008, alcohol use has decreased while tobacco and marijuana usage rates remain stable (see Idaho Department of Education Report: *Substance Use, Safety, And School Climate In Idaho, 2008*).

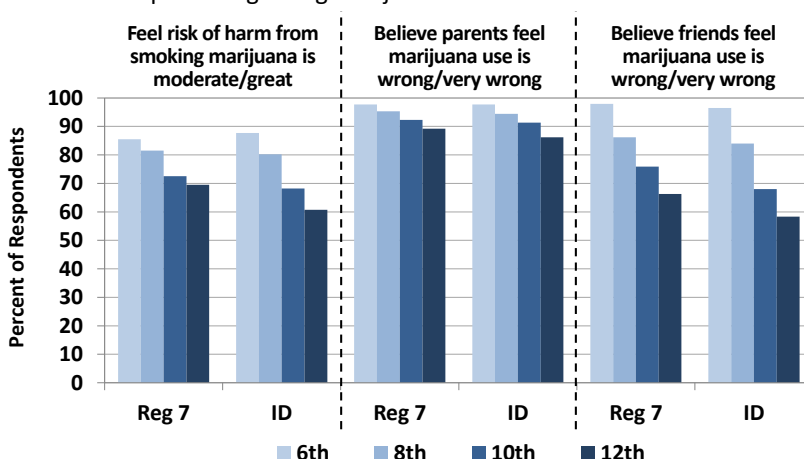
Few sixth grade students reported consuming alcohol in the month prior to taking the survey in Region 7 and statewide (3% and 5%, respectively). Use increased among older students, with 25% of the Region 7 seniors reporting recent alcohol use, lower than 34% statewide (Chart 1). Most students believed that consuming five or more alcoholic drinks once or twice a week (i.e., binge drinking) involved moderate or great risk of harm, and the vast majority also believed their parents feel daily alcohol use is wrong. Though perceptions that their friends feel daily alcohol use is wrong varied widely by grade level, high school students in Region 7 were more likely than students statewide to respond in this way (Chart 2).

Chart 2. Perceptions regarding alcohol use



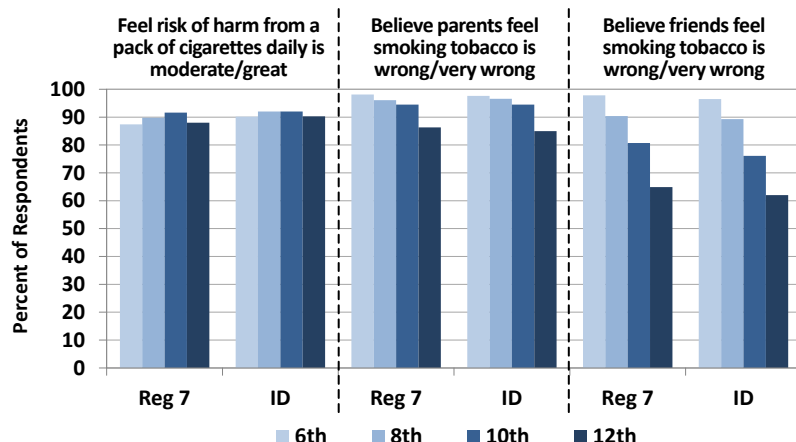
Marijuana usage is lower than that of alcohol (Chart 1), though similar trends are evident among students' perceptions of parents' judgments. The risk of harm associated with such use and perceptions of friends' judgments are higher among Region 7 high school students than statewide (Chart 3).

Chart 3. Perceptions regarding marijuana use



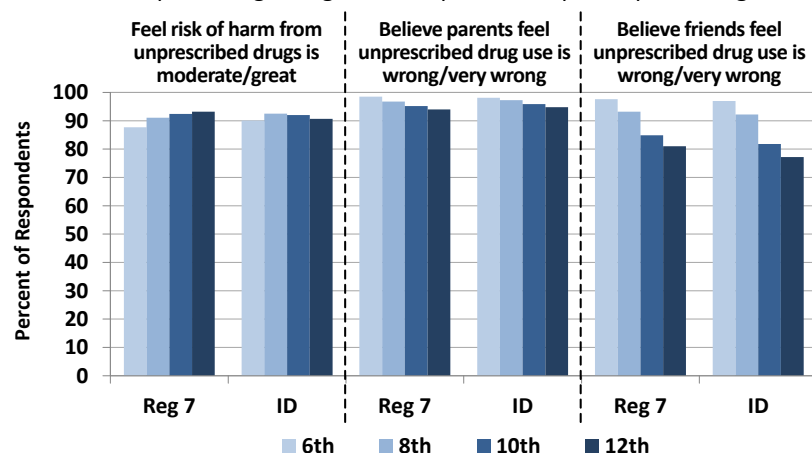
Among Region 7 twelfth grade students, 21% recently used tobacco, in the form of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, or cigars, compared with 24% statewide (Chart 1). The vast majority of students from all grade levels believed that smoking at least a pack of cigarettes daily posed a risk of harm. In Region 7, 86% of seniors believed their parents feel smoking tobacco is wrong, while only 65% believed their friends feel it is wrong (Chart 4); both such rates are higher than the rates statewide.

Chart 4. Perceptions regarding tobacco use



Recent use of unprescribed prescription drugs was rare (Chart 1). Most believe such use is risky, and that their parents feel it is wrong. High school students in Region 7 were less likely than younger students to believe their friends feel it is wrong, but more likely than those statewide (Chart 5).

Chart 5. Perceptions regarding use of unprescribed prescription drugs



The following questions can be used to start a conversation in your community about ways to prevent substance abuse.

- How do students' substance abuse rates in our region compare to the rest of the state?
- How do these rates compare with what we are personally aware of among our students?
- What are students' perceptions of school culture and climate in our region?
- How can we better educate families about substance abuse and inform them about community resources for our students?
- What are our goals around substance abuse prevention, and how can we achieve them?

Suicidal Ideation

During tenth grade, when responses indicating depressive behaviors were the most common, 33% of Region 7 students indicated feeling hopeless at least some of the time during the prior 30 days and 18% reported they had seriously considered attempting suicide, similar to statewide rates of 17%. Among Region 7 students who had been bullied in the past year, 27% indicated they had seriously considered suicide, compared with 8% among those not bullied.



Other Region 7 Survey Findings

- More than one third of Region 7 students, (34%) indicated they had been bullied within the last year, similar to students statewide.
- Seniors in Region 7 were less likely to believe that students of all racial groups always get along (20%) than were students statewide (25%).
- Region 7 tenth graders more often reported that gangs cause trouble at their school (43%) than did tenth graders statewide (35%).
- Among Region 7 seniors, 17% reported they had carried a weapon (such as a gun, knife, or club) on school property in the past month, compared with 15% of seniors statewide.
- In Region 7, 17% of students indicated that in the past month they had been in a vehicle driven by someone who had consumed alcohol or drugs. This is slightly less than the 19% of students statewide responding in this way.
- 76% of Region 7 students, compared with 73% of students statewide, felt it was likely or very likely that they would attend/graduate from a university.

The complete 2014 Idaho Youth Prevention Survey report can be downloaded from the following website:

www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe_drugfree/

For additional information, contact Matt McCarter, mamccarter@sde.idaho.gov.